

bubble and the false wealth that it created. As a result, we faced a rapid decline in job creation when the housing bubble burst.

Point B represents the beginning of a new administration with new policies and different results. The lines change direction rather sharply.

Madam Speaker, this is the picture of progress.

□ 1015

PATIENT-CENTERED HEALTH REFORM

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, it is so interesting to be a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives at this time. One of the things that makes it most interesting is the issues that we have to deal with, and it boils down to making choices: what are you going to support and what are you going to oppose.

The Republicans have supported health reform that would be patient centered. What we saw transpire in this House last weekend was a bill that is government centered and government first. There was a choice of how to move forward with health care, and decisions were made. The Democrat majority chose to put government at the top of health care decisions, government in charge of deciding what kind of health care you can access, what kind of insurance product you can buy, what will be available to buy by the time we get to the year 2013.

Those are not decisions that government should make. Those are decisions that should be made by individuals, by small businesses, by employers. And as our phones continue to ring as people find out more and more about the reconciliation bill, they say reconsider, pull the bill back and focus on the economy, focus on jobs and get this Nation on the right track.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, in the wake of the phenomenal accomplishment we made this weekend, my constituent and Senator, MITCH MCCONNELL, said, We have a new slogan for the fall, "Repeal and Replace." Well, that really doesn't surprise because while we have been legislating for the American people, our opponents on the Republican side have been doing little more than sloganeering.

I hope MITCH MCCONNELL does come home to Kentucky this year and tells parents like my niece, whose 1-year-old son was rejected for insurance because he had had an ear infection, that we are going to repeal that provision that guarantees kids be protected against being disqualified for preexisting con-

ditions. I hope he says we are going to repeal the provision that says that 15,000 small businesses in my district alone, and in his district, his hometown, will be denied that tax credit providing insurance for their employees. I hope he says that we are going to repeal that provision that narrows the doughnut hole for about 100,000 Medicare beneficiaries.

I say I have a slogan to combat "Repeal and Replace," "Just Wait and See."

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. HALL of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HALL of New York. Madam Speaker, I am so proud to have been here this week when we finally answered the call of the American people to reform the health care system. This is not a government takeover. People woke up on Monday to find they still have their doctors, if they have one; and they still have an insurance policy, if they have one. And, in fact, medical stocks went up on the stock market.

Because of our actions here, people with preexisting conditions will be protected from their insurance companies. Seniors will see the cost of their prescription drugs drop. All plans for all Americans will offer free, preventative care. Small businesses will now get tax credits to provide health care to their employees, and 32 million Americans currently uninsured will have access to high-quality, affordable health care.

I have heard the horror stories from my constituents. Many of them have told me that their insurance company refused to pay for treatment that their doctor ordered, or dropped them once they got sick and needed that coverage the most. Their stories inspired me to keep fighting for health reform, and I am proud to say that this body delivered.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JUSTICE O'CONNOR

(Ms. GIFFORDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the accomplishments of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman to serve on the United States Supreme Court.

Just last week, the House unanimously passed a resolution in recognition of her distinguished career during Women's History Month. Justice O'Connor truly embodies the Arizona spirit of hard work and rugged individualism.

After growing up on her family's ranch, the Lazy B located in the high deserts of Arizona, she quickly achieved success. Justice O'Connor graduated cum laude from Stanford University in 1950 and in the top three of her class at Stanford University Law School. Justice O'Connor began her ca-

reer in public service as the Arizona Assistant Attorney General in 1965 and went on to the State legislature. She became the first woman in the country to serve as a Senate Majority Leader. Justice O'Connor was catapulted into our Nation's limelight when President Ronald Reagan nominated her to the United States Supreme Court in 1981. She served 24 terms on the Supreme Court in a centrist role with her commitment to uphold law and our Constitution. Just last year she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama, the highest recognition for any civilian.

Today we honor Justice Sandra Day O'Connor because this Friday we celebrate her 80th birthday. This resolution is a small birthday gift to a daughter of Arizona from a grateful Nation that she so proudly served.

UNDO FLAWED HEALTH BILL

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, America is a democracy, not a monarchy; but you wouldn't know it by the way the American people's voices have been ignored by President Obama, Speaker PELOSI, and Senator REID. The American people are angry. They are not adequately represented in Washington. As representatives of the people, it is necessary that we fix this bill and give Americans what they want: quality and affordable health care reform, not increased taxes and sweetheart deals.

We must fight to repeal and replace this bill. We must fight to uphold the Constitution of the United States. I am here today to speak for the people of Arkansas and the people of America who are overwhelmingly in opposition to the flawed health care bill. We see how the government is infringing on our rights. The American people have had enough and want to see legal action. I too am concerned that this bill is unconstitutional, and I am supportive of States challenging this flawed health care bill. We must abide by States' rights. This bill is just another violation of those rights and it is something we must undo.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. POLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today, in celebration of the historic passage of health care reform for our country. I am going to quote from our Declaration of Independence: All men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men.

Yes, it is the purpose of our government that we the people have set up to